

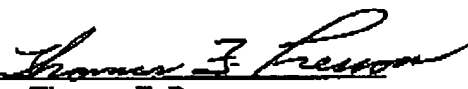
PATENT
450100-03694**REMARKS**

Claims 1-6 are pending. Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,529,946 to Yokono et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,047,376 to Hosoe. Applicant respectfully submits that Yokono is disqualified as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §103(c) since the present application has a filing date of November 9, 2001 and Yokono has a publication date of March 7, 2002 and both the present application and Yokono were, at the time the invention was made, subject to an assignment to Sony Corporation.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,
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